



PROGRESS REPORT NO. 95

TO: Dr. Laura Buelow – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - via Email
Matt Wilkening – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - via Email

FROM: Kris McCaig – Teck American Incorporated (TAI)

DATE: June 11, 2014

FILE NO: 01-773180-000

RE: Upper Columbia River (UCR) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS) - Progress Report No. 95 Month Ending May 2014

Pursuant to Paragraph 39 of the June 2, 2006 Settlement Agreement (Agreement), the following is intended to provide a summary of activities completed during the past month in compliance with the aforementioned Agreement. It is also intended to provide a brief summary of pending and on-going activities.

Phase 2 Sediment Study:

Field sampling activities commenced at the beginning of September and were completed on October 24, 2013. Field sediment and porewater chemistry analysis is complete and validated data were submitted to EPA for quality assurance review. EPA provided review comments to TAI on February 26, 2014 and TAI responded with a memo addressing EPA's comments on March 3, 2014.

The first batches of short-term bioassay tests (i.e., 10-day *Chironomus dilutes* and 28-day *Hyaella azteca*) were initiated on January 21, 2014 and all tests on all batches were completed as of February 28, 2014. Bioassay test data are currently being prepared for the database and the chemistry laboratory continues to analyze porewater and sediment samples collected during the short term bioassay tests. A re-run of the 28-day *Hyaella azteca* short-term bioassay test for sediments in Batch 5 was initiated on March 27, 2014 and was completed on April 24, 2014; all controls sediments met survival test acceptability criteria during the re-run.

As required by the quality assurance project plan (QAPP), TAI is developing a technical memorandum using preliminary biology and chemistry data from short term bioassay tests to propose 18 sediment samples for long term bioassay testing; the memorandum will be submitted to EPA on June 30, 2014.

TAI submitted a proposal to conduct backscatter electron microscopy (BSEM) on archived sediments on February 25, 2014 and followed up in March with supporting

information requested by EPA. At the time of writing, EPA provided a memorandum to TAI on June 4, 2014 requesting that 4 new samples be included in addition to those proposed by TAI; TAI will respond with a technical memorandum describing how the BSEM will be performed.

TAI submitted the Draft Final Bossburg Flat Beach Refined Sediment and Soil Study QAPP and response to EPA's comments to EPA on April 30, 2014. TAI technical team members met with EPA and the cultural resources working group on April 3, 2014 to review sampling decisions units and sample locations for the Bossburg Study to clear or move sample locations based on cultural sensitivities. Results from the meeting were incorporated into the draft final QAPP.

TAI is in receipt of EPA's May 23, 2014 letter providing conditional approval of the April 2014 Draft Final Soil Study QAPP and requested modifications. TAI will submit a revised version of the Draft Final QAPP in June 2014.

TAI received from EPA, the draft data analysis report (DAR) for the Tribal Consumption and Resource Use Survey and the Recreational Use Survey on December 18, 2013 and January 17, 2014 respectively. TAI submitted comments to EPA on the Tribal Survey DAR on February 13, 2014 and at the time of writing, submitted comments on the Recreational Use Survey DAR on June 11, 2014.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 509-623-4501.